

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 SAJ-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 /074 W

-----071024Z 101671 /20

R 070900Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6880

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, SN

SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP) ASIAN

CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE -RESCUE PLANS

REF (A) BANGKOK 0374 (B) SINGAPORE 5737 AND PREVIOUS

1. MRS. N. CHONG, ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RELIEF FOR THE SINGAPORE RED CROSS EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN INFORMED THAT THERE WAS RUMOUR CIRCULATING THAT IT HAD MADE A \$140,000 CONTRIBUTION TO WCRP (REF A). SHE CHARACTERIZED THE REPORT AS ENTIRELY UNTRUE.

2. MRS. CHONG WAS, HOWEVER, FAMILIAR WITH THE WCRP AND ITS ACTIVITIES AND MENTIONED THAT ON ONE OCCASION, IN RESPONSE TO A WCRP APPEAL, THE SINGAPORE RED CROSS HAD CONTRIBUTED SOME CLOTHING, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND

A LIMITED QUANTITY OF PROVISIONS. SHE ESTIMATED THE TOTAL VALUE OF THIS

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DONATION WOULD NOT HAVE EXCEEDED SINGAPORE DOLS. 1,000 (US\$400). MRS. CHONG FURTHER STATED THAT HER ORGANIZATION HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE BY THE WCRP SINCE THIS INITIAL CONTRIBUTION, AND EMPHASISED THAT ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE WOULD BE GIVEN IN THE SAME FORM AS BEFORE AND NOT AS CASH DONATION.

3. THE LATES INFORMATION ON ACQUISITION ACQUISITION OF A BOAT TO PICKUP

REFUGEES IS THAT A FORMER WW II MINESWEEPER (ABOUT 150 FEET IN LENGTH) HIRED BY THE WCRP HAS BEEN RECHRISTENED "THE ROLAND" AND ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCE, SAILED FROM SINGAPORE THIS MORNING, CAPTAINED BY AMCIT BOB MAHON, BOUND FOR MERSING AND SONGKHLA. THE SHIP PLANS TO GO FIRST TO MERSING AND PAMANGULL ISLAND TO CHECK ON SITUATION AND POSSIBLY PICK UP THE SIX AND TWENTY REFUGEES REPORTED REF. B. ENROUTE THE SHIP WILL ALSO SEARCH FOR TWO BOATS REPORTED BY A SOURCE IN THE SINGAPORE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY TO BE CARRYING 60 REFUGEES EACH SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA OFF THE EAST COAST OF MALAYSIA. DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES FOUND SHIP MAY THEN PROCEED TO DARWIN WHERE WCRP BELIEVES REFUGEES WILL BE PROCESSED FOR PAROLE.

4. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE MAHON WILL CHECK WITH AUTHORITIES AT EACH STOP TO ENSURE HIS ACTIVITIES DO NOT CONFLICT WITH LOCAL POLICY ON REFUGEES.

5. REGARDING OTHER BOATS, SOURCE SAID THAT WCRP IS STILL LOOKING FOR A LARGER CRAFT CAPABLE OF CARRYING UP TO 1000 REFUGEES. HOWEVER, BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS SO FAR HAVE PREVENTED ANY ACTION IN THIS REGARD.  
HOLDRIDGE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SREF, SN, WORLD CONF ON RELIGION & PEACE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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